

Activity Report 2014

The IFGK continued to have ten active and six dormant members during the reporting period. The active members are: Martin Arnold, Anne Dietrich (currently in Ethiopia as a ZFD specialist), Reinhard Eismann, Albert Fuchs, Mirjam Mahler, Gudrun Knittel, Barbara Müller, Achim Schmitz, Christine Schweitzer and Roland Vogt. Retiring staff members are: Detlef Beck, Christoph Besemer, Björn Kunter, Giovanni Scotto, Uli Wohland and Oliver Wolleh.

Research & teaching, advisory activities, events

In 2014, Martin Arnold made the results of his research on the power of kindness known through publications in the "Friedensforum" (Christmas Peace 1914) and in a new book on peace education, as well as online at www.axpaix.de (Peaceful Revolution 1989), through lectures, on the radio (wdr5) and in discussion groups. On the other hand, he was involved in the practical implementation of research results to reduce grievances. His regular participation in the awarding of the Gandhi Prize to schools is a special pleasure for him. Some conferences and seminars: in Munich (before the security conference), in Vlotho (topic Egypt and nonviolence), in Bielefeld (Transition-Town), in Würzburg (pax christi), in Freiburg (Workshop for Nonviolent Action), in Mainz (Ecumenical Assembly), in Constance (100th anniversary of the International Fellowship of Reconciliation and subsequent Peace Week), in Essen, Bückeberg and Bad Eilsen, in Sasbach (Network of Peace Prayer Groups), in Gammertingen (Lebenshaus), in Imshausen (Solidarity Economy), in Sievershausen (Anti-War House). Gütekraft in practice: Participation in the Lausitz climate camp (lignite), in Essen (various problems around a car market) as well as in the Ruhr area at the Mobility~Work~City (sustainable transport policy).

Martin Arnold started the campaigner training "CampaPeace - Qualification for Campaigns in the Peace Movement" of the Workshop for Nonviolent Action in 2014.

Anne Dietrich continues to work as a peace specialist for GIZ in Ethiopia. She assists with proofreading and translations of articles and continues to work on her working paper on Civil Conflict Transformation.

Reinhard Eismann has been involved in general business tasks as far as his time capacities allowed. In the summer of 2014, he ended his temporary job as an educator for the city of Marburg and moved to Stuttgart in the autumn of 2014, where he has been working in a municipal kindergarten since September 2014. His background in political science definitely benefits him in his work there, as many of the children's families come from the crisis and conflict regions of this world - including Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Iran, Kosovo, Croatia, Kurdistan - and some families have had to leave their home countries for political reasons. In November 2014, Reinhard Eismann started the one-and-a-half-year, six-part campaigner training course "CampaPeace - Qualification for Campaigns in the Peace Movement" of the Workshop for Nonviolent Action.

During the reporting period, Albert Fuchs was a peer reviewer for the Journal of Social and Political Psychology, published an article in *Wissenschaft und Frieden* entitled "Zur friedensethischen Bilanz der EKD zum Afghanistan-Krieg" ("On the EKD's peace ethics assessment of the war in Afghanistan") and an in-depth review of "Ethik der Gewaltfreiheit" ("Ethics of Nonviolence") by Robert L. Holmes (issues 2/2014 and 4/2014) and was repeatedly involved in consultative work as a member of the advisory board of this journal. His work continued to focus on collaboration in the Peace Policy Commission of Pax Christi, especially in preparation for the Peace Ethics Congress "Rethinking Just Peace" (Rastatt, 26-28 June 2015). At the grassroots level, in the Bonn Peace Alliance, the focus was on the

critical examination of the prevailing "conflict management" in matters of IS(IS) and Ukraine..

Mirjam Mahler organised four lectures on peace policy issues in Bückeberg last year in addition to her work as executive director of the Fellowship of Reconciliation. Since November, she has been taking part in the training "CampaPeace - Qualification for Campaigns in the Peace Movement" led by Uli Wohland, which is offered jointly by four organisations of the peace movement (see www.wfga.de/ under News/Training). She is currently involved in commemorating the atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki 70 years ago and the atomic bombs still held in Germany (Büchel) in Bückeberg.

Barbara Müller mainly intensified her coaching activities during the reporting period.

Achim Schmitz offered workshops on non-violent conflict resolution and communication at vocational schools in Waiblingen. With the Working Group of Peace Education Institutions (AfpB), he conducted research on peace education materials in a project on "Good Practice Peace Education and Global Learning" and presented the interim results at a symposium of the AfpB.

At the University of Stuttgart, he received a teaching assignment for a communication training course. In December, he took part in a panel discussion of the newly founded Peace Academy Rhineland-Palatinate in Landau. Together with Roland Vogt, he represented the IFGK in the Peace Education Network Rhineland-Palatinate (<http://www.netzwerk-friedensbildung-rlp.de/>).

Christine Schweitzer continued to work on the project "Citizens Preventing Wars" during the reporting period together with Jörgen Johansen, who contributed a chapter on the secession of Norway from Sweden, which almost led to war if the labour and women's movements had not prevented it. The study was published in the summer.

It was accompanied by various lectures and essays. For a course at the Alice Solomon College on conflict management, she designed two days on the topic of non-violent uprisings.

For the new edition of the Bibliography of Nonviolent Action (Carter, April, Clark, Howard and Randle, Michael (2006) People Power and Protest Since 1945: A Bibliography of Nonviolent Action. London:Housmans. <http://www.civilresistance.info/bibliography/> that they added a section on German language literature. The book will be published by Merlin Press in spring 2015 and will again be available online free of charge.

Together with Rachel Julian (Leeds), she has been external editor for an issue of the us journal Peace Review on the topic of Unarmed Civilian Peacekeeping. It will be published in spring 2015.

Stellan Vinthagen and Jörgen Johansen invited her to join the advisory board of the new journal Journal of Resistance Studies. This journal was founded by Vinthagen at his new chair at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Another focus continued to be the editorial work for the journal Friedensforum.

Since October 2012, Christine has been working with a half-time position as executive director at the Bund für Soziale Verteidigung.

In the meantime, however, Roland Vogt was again able to accept invitations to give lectures, among others on the topics of "Nonviolent Strategies" and "Conversion". In addition, he has written a fundamental article on the question of the extent to which conversion could be a building block for a state without armaments and the military. As a member of the board of the "Peace Academy Rhineland-Palatinate Academy for Conflict Prevention and Civil Conflict Transformation", he has been involved in the establishment of this institution, which has been operational since 1 September 2014. On the blog of the Peace Academy, which is anchored in the University of Landau-Koblenz/Campus Landau, he published an article on "Nonviolent Resistance & Civil Disobedience" on Martin Luther King Day 2015.

In the run-up to the founding of the Peace Academy Rhineland-Palatinate, Achim Schmitz and Roland Vogt had developed a relevant concept on behalf of the IFGK in 2011. The "Peace Policy" section of the coalition agreement of the SPD and Bündnis 90/Die Grünen for the 2011-2016 legislative period of the Rhineland-Palatinate state parliament stipulated that the establishment of a Peace Academy Rhineland-Palatinate "should be examined." In their concept, Schmitz and Vogt pleaded for such a peace academy with a focus on crisis prevention and civil conflict management to actually be established and financed by the state of Rhineland-Palatinate.

Study days

The IFGK organised two study days during the reporting period.

The Spring Study Day on 29-30 March 2014 was unusual in that it was two days long and held in a closed setting. The theme was "Nonviolence", or more specifically, "What are the basic requirements, especially commonalities, of satyagraha action for people committed to dismantling a social or political grievance?" The topic had grown out of an e-mail correspondence that had been going on in the invited circle since autumn 2012. It was approached in a direct, "Socratically oriented conversation" as presupposition-free as possible.

The neo-Socratic method always starts with examples that one has experienced oneself in order to shed light on their background by asking questions, so that in further questioning one may come across general preconditions and principles that can then also be relevant for the conceptual and practical questions. A consensual answer is sought, but not forced. The discussion was moderated by Gisela Raupach-Strey; participants were mainly people from peace research, some of whom have been dealing with the issue of nonviolence for many decades.

Autumn study day: Despite the train strike, 15 people came to the IFGK study day on 18.10.2014 in Cologne. Martin Arnold spoke on behalf of Christine Schweitzer about her publication "Preventing or Stopping Wars: The Contribution of the Peace Movements". The fact that the Norwegian separatists succeeded in 1905 in detaching the country from Sweden without violence, although both sides had been heavily armed, is hardly known in this country. The contribution of the women's movement and the social democratic party, especially the youth organisation, was particularly important at that time.

Arnold then illuminated "Different research approaches to the question of how war can be prevented", pointing in particular to the importance of communication inside and outside the media. For example, the images in the media were decisive in ending the Vietnam War.

Jana Bosse reported on her doctoral project at the FU Berlin on "Strategies in Social Movements" using the example of grassroots groups in the German environmental movement. One finding, among others: Success has to do with public interpretation. It is always important to reflect on the basic premises of one's own actions. Different approaches are possible.

Elise Kopper's doctoral thesis at the University of Münster deals with "Agenda setting under difficult conditions - civil crisis prevention and the federal political agenda". How did civil crisis prevention get onto the agenda in the 1990s and into the coalition agreement in 1998? What conclusions can today's peace policy lobbying draw from this? Key points included: Identify windows of opportunity, target key people.

The participants of the study day are eagerly awaiting the summary of Kopper's and Bosse's research results and hope for broader interest in order to make the interventions of the actively non-violent peace movement more effective.

(This report was written by Ariane Dettloff for the BSV newsletter 3-4/2014).

International networking, cooperation and representation

Martin Arnold continued to represent the IFGK at the Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Friedens- und Konfliktforschung (AFK).

Achim Schmitz and Roland Vogt represented the IFGK at the Netzwerk Friedensbildung Rheinland-Pfalz.

Christine Schweitzer represented the IFGK at the International Conference and Membership Meeting of War Resisters' International (WRI) in Cape Town and at the German Friends of War Resisters' International, of which she is Chairperson.

Several IFGK staff members took part in the annual meeting of the Bund für Soziale Verteidigung (BSV) in Minden in March.

Several IFGK members also took part in the meeting of the Platform for Civil Conflict Transformation. Christine Schweitzer also supported the Platform as its representative on the Federal Government's Advisory Council on the Action Plan for Civilian Crisis Prevention.

Management and Public Relations

The management of the IFGK continues to be carried out by several members of staff in a division of labour. Barbara Müller focuses on everything to do with finances and personnel; Achim Schmitz ensures that regular reports are sent to the BSV newsletter and circular. Christine Schweitzer takes care of Achim Schmitz's website, is responsible for the organisational preparation of study days and looks after the distribution list for interested parties, the information folder and the annual report. Other tasks such as preparing the content of study days etc. are carried out on a rotating basis. The chairpersons of the IFGK e.V. remain Achim Schmitz and Martin Arnold; the treasurer is Barbara Müller.

Auditors are Regine Kranich and Albert Fuchs.

All core IFGK work is done by the staff on a voluntary basis.